

Grantee Training Manual

System Navigation and Completing Post Award Actions (Award Action Requests)

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Version 2.6 April 13, 2006



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Document Conventions

Overview

Welcome to the Grants Online Training Manual. This manual is set up to provide you with step-by-step information to accomplish tasks within Grants Online. The manual is logically sequenced based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Grants lifecycle process and is written to address your role as a grantee within Grants Online.

Using this Guide

The following conventions were used in creating this manual. The manual uses block label text in order to scan for the information desired.

Text Conventions

Text; Example What it means.

Text in Bold; Click **Done** Indicates a command.

Text in Italics; *CD 450 Details* screen appears.

Indicates a screen.

Text in Bold Italics; **Name** Indicates data to be entered into a field.

Text in All Caps; LOGIN Indicates a field name.

Notes and Warnings

Notes and Warnings are used to indicate information or advisories when using Grants Online.

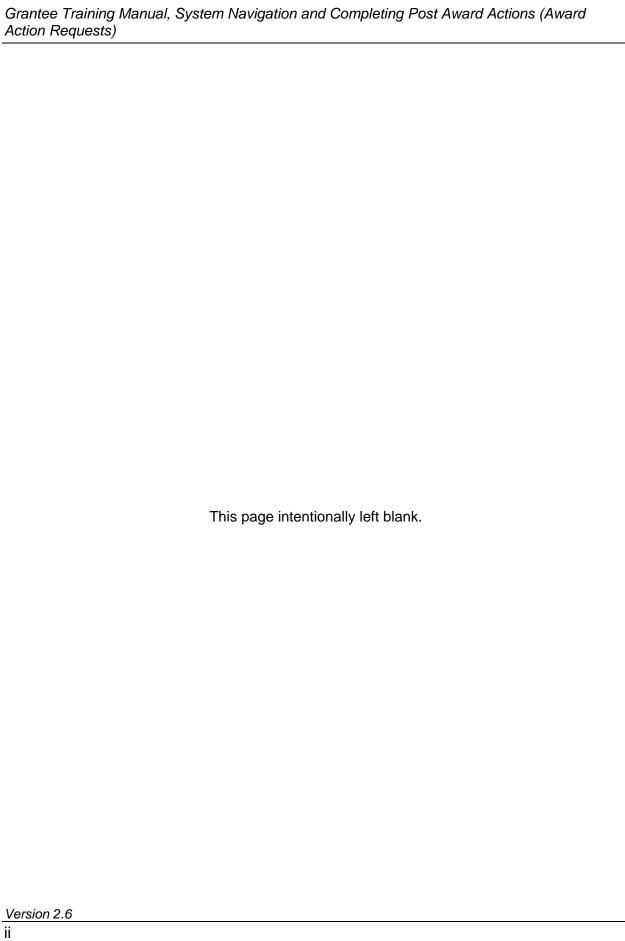


Note: A note is used to inform you about additional information during the procedure or process.



Warning!

Business process may not work as desired or a procedure may produce an undesirable effect.



Grants Online Overview

Overview

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) offers a variety of competitive and non-competitive grants and Awards to various communities including States, Universities, and non-profit organizations. Prior to the advent of Grants Online, the processing of grants was a paper-based task involving time-consuming human interactions and program policies. The process of awarding grants to the most qualified applicant for a competitive Award, and to qualified designated applicants of non-competitive Awards, was also largely paper-driven.

As part of its strategy to move scientifically and operationally into the 21st century, Grants Online was developed. Grants Online is an E-Government initiative to create an automated tool that will support the grants management lifecycle activities. Grants Online significantly streamlines and unifies grants processing throughout all of NOAA, allowing the agency to increase efficiencies related to mission goals.

Grants Online is developed to answer several issues that occur during the award processing including:

- Reduce or eliminate paper forms for application.
- Provide an interface with Grants.gov to ensure applicants can apply for grants electronically.
- Reduce the processing time by incorporating workflows between Federal Program Officers (FPO), Grants Management Division (GMD), Financial Assistance Legal Division (FALD), and Grantees.
- Serve the NOAA community in its efforts to meet its mission goals.

Grants Online allows Grantees to:

- Accept Awards electronically.
- Manage user roles for individuals within their organization.
- Submit post-Award action requests and Performance Progress reports.
- Correspond with your NOAA Program Officer and Grant Specialist.

Grants Online Software Description

About Grants Online

Grants Online operates in a web environment, and can be accessed anywhere at anytime provided that you have internet access. You will be required to use an internet browser to log in and use Grants Online. Internet Explorer is the preferred browser for PC users; FireFox is the preferred browser for MAC users. No software is required for installation. Logins and passwords are required and will be relayed to you once you are established within the system.

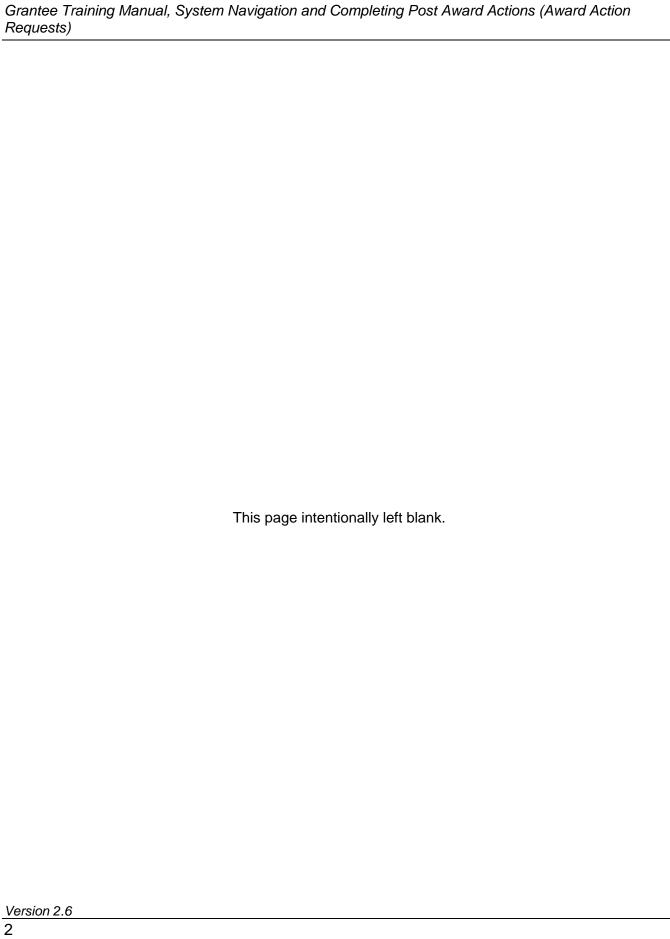


Note: You must have an Internet connection in order to access Grants Online.



Warning!

Please do not user the browser "Back" button in Grants Online. Using the browser "Back" button will log you out of Grants Online



Getting Started

Overview

When you are using any Windows-based software, navigation and ease of use are key components. Grants Online incorporates an intuitive Graphic User Interface (GUI) that assists end users in navigating and using the system appropriately. In this module, you will be shown the basics of Grants Online, including the look and feel of the system, navigation, and user customizations.

Module Objectives

The Getting Started module will review the following objectives:

- Obtaining your password
- Logging into Grants Online

Overview

Grants Online is accessible through your web browser, specifically Internet Explorer.

Accessing Grants Online

- 1. Click on the Internet Explorer icon on your desktop to open Internet Explorer.
- 2. Enter the following URL information in the address bar of your browser: https://grantsonline.rdc.noaa.gov then press ENTER
 - Grants Online Login page appears



Logging in to Grants Online

- 1. If you are not the Grants Online Recipient Administrator for your organization, please contact that person to obtain your username and password. If you don't know your Recipient Administrator or you have been designated as the Recipient Administrator for your organization, contact the Grants Online Help Desk to obtain your username and password.
 - Phone: 301-713-1000 or toll free at 1-877-662-2468
 - Email: grantsonline.helpdesk@noaa.gov
- 2. Enter your assigned *Username*.
- 3. Enter your assigned *Password*.
- 4. Click Enter.





Warning!

If you enter an incorrect username or password, you will receive an error message in red on the screen. After three unsuccessful attempts to log in, the system will lock you out. In such cases, you are required to contact your Recipient Administrator or the Grants Online Help Desk to unlock your account.

If nothing happens when you click enter, it means the server is down and will need to be restarted.

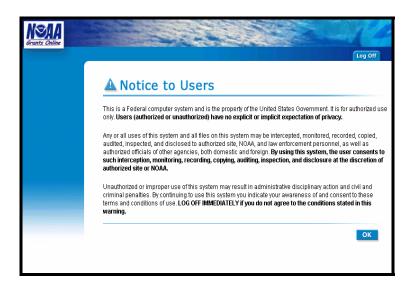


Note:

If you click on the **Grants Online Training** link you can view and download training material including training manuals, quick reference guides, and online webinars.

Logging in to Grants Online

- **5.** The *Notice to Users* screen appears.
- 6. Review disclaimer information and click **OK**.



Grants Online Navigation Features

Overview

You can easily navigate through Grants Online using a combination of the Tabs and the links on the Navigation Pane. It is important to note that access to certain features of Grants Online is based on your user role.

Module Objectives

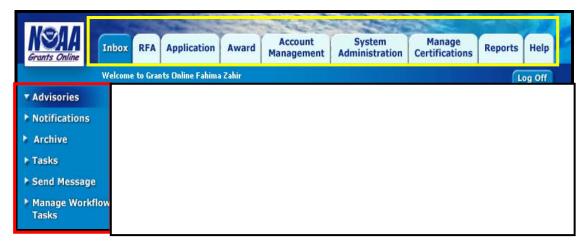
The Grants Online Navigation Features module will review the following objectives:

- Understanding the screen layout
- Managing your notifications
- Managing your inbox
- Managing your tasks
- Searching for an Award

Understanding the Screen Layout

Once you have successfully logged into Grants Online, the system defaults to the **Inbox** tab. Grants Online is broken into the following 3 areas:

- Tabs
- Navigation Pane
- Document Pane
- 1. <u>Tabs</u>: Highlighted by the yellow border and located at the top of the page are the Grants Online tabs. Use the tabs to navigate within the different areas of Grants Online. Click on the appropriate tab to navigate to the desired area.
- 2. <u>Navigation Pane:</u> Highlighted by the red border, is the navigation pane. Based on the tab you select, a menu of associated functions is displayed. Click on the desired function to navigate to a specific screen.
- 3. <u>Document Pane</u>: Highlighted by the black border, is the document pane. This is located in the middle of the screen. This is where most of the data in Grants Online will be entered.





Note: Access to various tabs is determined by your user role. A grayed out tab denotes a restricted area. If trying to access a restricted area, a pop-up message will display, stating "Unauthorized to access this area."

4. Upon successfully logging into the system, you will be taken by default to the *Advisories* page within the **Inbox** tab. Click on the links in the navigation pane on the left to view Notifications, Archived Notifications, Tasks, to Send a Message, or Manage Workflow Tasks.



Accessing Notifications

Notifications are displayed to inform you that you have tasks assigned to you through the workflow process. They are copies of the messages sent by Grants Online to your native email account. Other types of notifications include information related to: direct assignments, status within the workflow process, and overdue tasks

- 1. From the **Inbox** tab, click **Notifications**. The *Notifications* screen appears.
- 2. Click on the **ID number** next to the notification you wish to view.





You can modify the notifications display in your inbox through the **Account Management** tab. Archived notifications appear in your archive folder, accessible by clicking on the **Archive** link.

- 3. The Notification Details screen appears.
- 4. Click **OK** to close the *Notifications Details* screen and return to the *Notifications* screen.



Archiving and Deleting Notifications

Archived notifications are your personal repository for all notifications you would like to maintain for historical purposes. You can archive your notifications or delete them by checking the box next to the notification and clicking on the **Archive** or **Delete** button.

- 1. Click the check box next to the notification you wish to archive or delete.
- 2. Click the **Archive** button or the **Delete** button.
- 3. The notification is moved to the archives folder or is permanently deleted.





Note: You can delete or archive an entire page of your notifications at once by checking the box in the header column.



Warning! Once a notification is deleted, it cannot be recovered.

Accessing Archived Notifications

- 1. From the **Inbox** tab, select the **Archive** link. The *Archived Notifications* screen appears.
- 2. Click on the **Notification ID** you would like to view.
- 3. To delete an archived notification, click the check box next to the ID of the notification you would like to delete and select the **Delete** button.



Accessing and Viewing Tasks

While Notifications alert you to an action you must complete, tasks allow you to complete that action assigned to you within the workflow. Tasks that are assigned to you are in the task section in the *Inbox tab*.

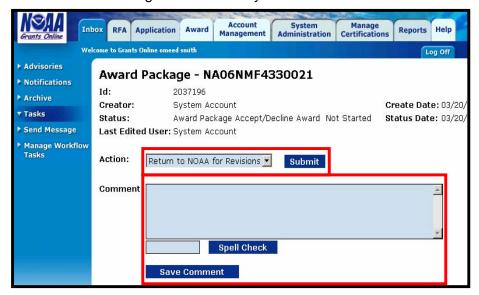
- 1. From the **Inbox** tab, click **Tasks**. The *Inbox Tasks* screen appears.
- Click View next to the task you wish to view.





Note: You can customize the tasks view through the **Account Management** tab.

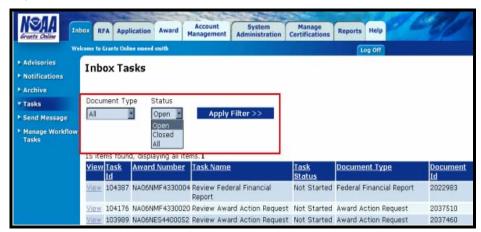
3. The following screen is the *Task Launch* page. From this page you may complete your task by selecting an action from the action dropdown followed by the **Submit** button. You may enter a comment for the agency to view in the COMMENT field. Once the task has been submitted, these comments will no longer be viewable by Grantee users.



Filtering Tasks

You may filter your tasks to view tasks that are open and pending your action or to view closed tasks which are completed or cancelled.

- 1. From the **Status** dropdown menu, select **Open** to view all open tasks, **Closed** to view all closed and completed tasks, or **ALL** to view all tasks both open and closed.
- 2. Click Apply Filter.



Sending Messages

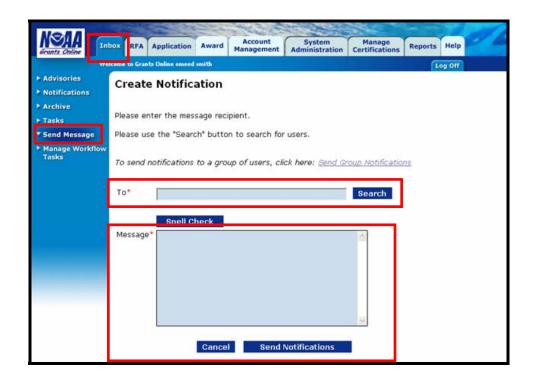
Notifications can be created to send messages via email to an individual or to a group. The email is sent to the email address indicated in the user's profile.

- 1. From the **Inbox** tab, click **Send Message**.
- 2. The *Create Notifications* screen appears.
- 3. Select **Search** in the TO field.
- **4.** Enter your search criteria and then select the individual to whom you wish to send a notification to.
- 5. Type the body of the notification in the *MESSAGE* box.
- 6. Click **Spell Check** to check your spelling.
- 7. Click **Send Notifications** once the message is complete.



Warning!

Be sure to include your name in the body of the message because the message will be sent with "GrantsOnline.QandA@noaa.gov" in the "From" field of the email.



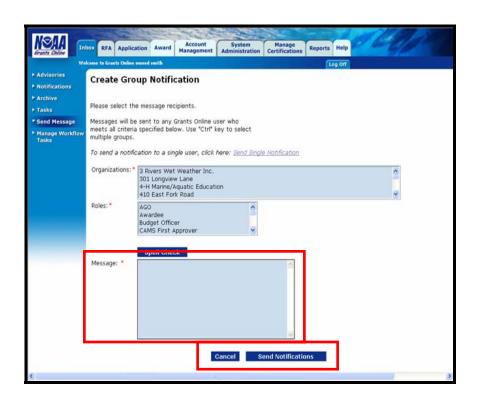
Sending Group Notifications

- 1. From the *Create Notification* screen (see page 11), click **Send Group Notifications**.
- 2. Select the individuals to whom you wish to send a notification.
- 3. Type the body of the notification in the *MESSAGE* box.
- 4. Click **Send Notifications**.



Warning!

Be sure to include your name in the body of the message because the message will be sent with "GrantsOnline.QandA@noaa.gov" in the "From" field of the email.



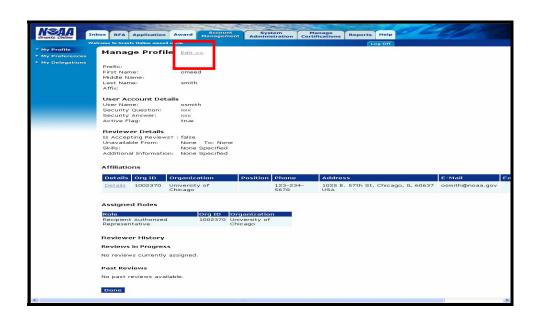
Accessing and Editing My Profile

The **Account Management** tab allows you to view your Profile, Preferences, and Delegations. Within this tab you can update your profile and customize your Notifications/Tasks preferences.

1. Click on the **Account Management** tab. The *Account Management screen* appears.



- 2. From the **Account Management** tab, click **My Profile**. The *My Profile* screen appears.
- 3. Click Edit.



- **4.** The following screen is the *Manage Profile* Screen and allows you to make edits to your profile.
- 5. Click **Save** to capture your changes.
- 6. Click Save and Return to Main to return to the Account Management tab main screen.
- 7. Click **Cancel** to go back to the previous screen (any changes you made will NOT be saved).





Note: To change roles and affiliations contact the Grants Online Help Desk.

Accessing and Customizing My Preferences

Customize your viewing preferences through the *My Preferences* screen. You may enable/disable email inbox notifications. This will prevent notifications from being sent to your external email account. Headings may be customized to display certain fields on your *Tasks* and *Notifications* screens. Additionally, you may change your password for Grants Online.

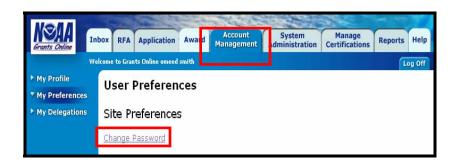
- 1. From the **Account Management** tab, click **My Preferences**. The *My Preferences* screen appears.
- 2. Select desired notification and/or tasks to enable/disable by clicking the check box next to the notification or the task.
- 3. Click Save.



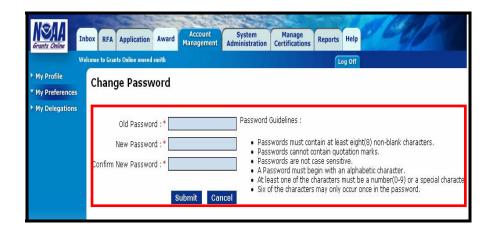


Changing your Password

1. Click **Change Password** in the *User Preferences* screen.



- 2. In the OLD PASSWORD field, enter your old password.
- 3. Enter the new password In the NEW PASSWORD field and in the CONFIRM NEW PASSWORD field. Be sure to follow the password guidelines when creating your new password.
- 4. Click **Submit**.



Accessing My Delegations and Adding Delegates

When you select the **My Delegations** link from the **Account Management** tab, you will be able to delegate your work to another Grants Online user, provided that user's roles match your roles. For example, a Principal Investigator cannot create a delegation to an individual who only has the role of Recipient Authorized Representative. From the **My Delegations** tab you can view existing delegates, add delegates, and rescind delegates.



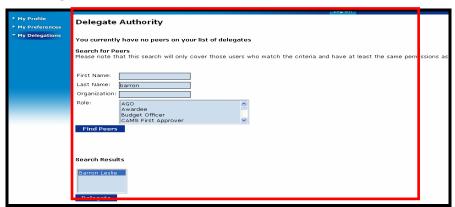
Warning!

Grantees do not currently have access to delegation functionality in Grants Online. A system advisory will be posted on the Grants Online login page once this feature is available.

- 1. From the **Account Management** tab, click **My Delegations.** The *Delegate Authority* screen appears.
- 2. Enter search criteria by FIRST NAME, LAST NAME, ORGANIZATION or ROLE.
- 3. Click Find Peers.



4. From the search results select the name of the person you would like as your delegate and click on the **Delegate** button.



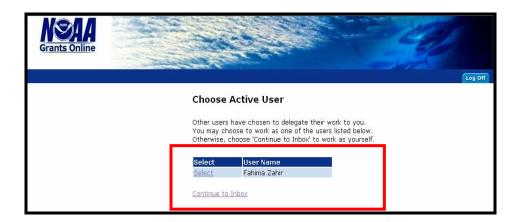
Rescinding a Delegation

- 1. From the **Account Management** tab, click **My Delegations**. The *My Delegations* screen appears.
- 2. Click Find Peers.
- 3. Select **Delegations**.
- 4. Click **Delegate**.
- 5. Click on the **Rescind** link to remove the individual as your delegate.



Logging in as a Delegate

- 1. Log in to Grants Online with your username and password.
- 2. Click **OK** on the *Notice to Users* page.
- 3. Choose to either continue in as yourself (**Continue to Inbox**) or click on the **Select** button to log in as the person who delegated their inbox to you (Click **Select** by the person's name).



4. When you are in Grants Online as a delegate, the system will identify you as a delegate. Both you and the delegate can work in Grants Online simultaneously.



Searching for an Award

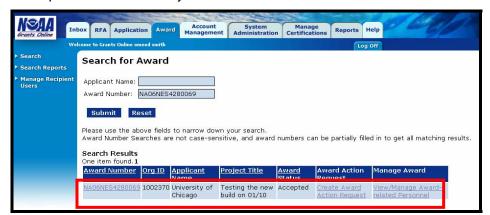
- 1. Click on the **Award** tab.
- 2. Click on the **Search Award** link to search for an Award.



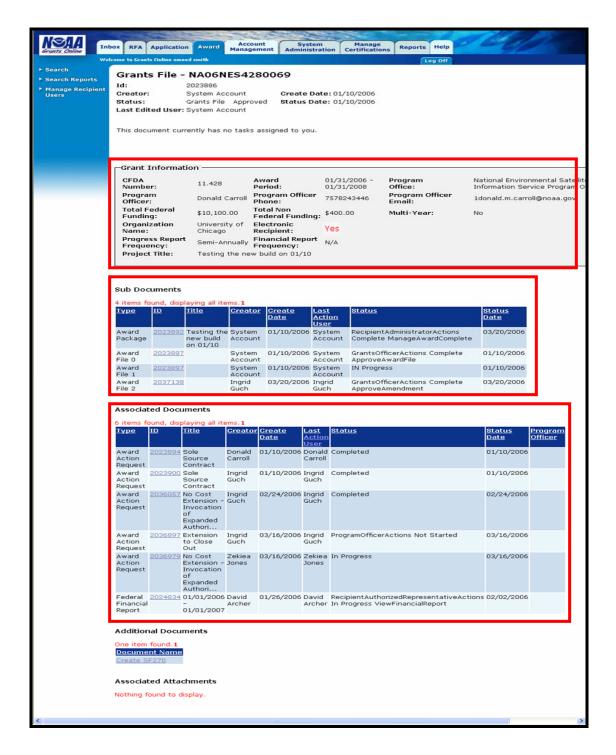
- 3. Enter search criteria into at least one of the query fields listed, or leave both fields blank to retrieve all Awards to which you have access.
- 4. Click **Submit** (the "Nothing found to display" message remains displayed until you click the **Submit** button)



5. Select the Award you want to view by clicking the Award number link. Users with the role of Recipient Authorized Representative, System Administrator, or Budget and Financial Representative have access to all of the Awards in their organization. Principal Investigators and Key Personnel only have access to specific Awards assigned to them by the Recipient Authorized Representative or the System Administrator.



6. The *Grants File* page is displayed. Please note the Grants file contains all the Award files for the Award. Award file 0 is the original Award and the subsequent Award files such as Award file 1 and/or Award file 2 represents Amendments.



Processing Award Action Requests

Overview In this module, you will learn how to process an Award Action Request (AAR)

in Grants Online.

Objectives This module will review the following objective:

Processing Award Action Requests via the Award Tab

Award Action Requests

During the post Award grant lifecycle phase, recipients can request an action on an Award via an Award Action Request. This section details the steps for completing an AAR.

The process for completing various AARs is very similar; however certain AARs result in new Award Files and Amendments in Grants Online and others do not. All AARs are sent to Recipient Authorized Representatives to approve and forward to NOAA for approval. The Award Action Requests chart below, lists the AARs that create Award Files and Amendments in Grants Online as well as those that do not.

Award Action Requests							
Award Action Request	Sent to Program Officer, Grant Specialist, and Grants Officer for Approval	Accepted by Authorized Representative after it has been approved	Creates an Award file and Amendment				
No Cost Extension - Without Invocation of Expanded							
Authority	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Change in Scope	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Transfer of Award	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Other	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Sub award, transfer or contracting out of any work under the award if not described in the approved application	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Reprogram or Rebudget	Yes	No	No				
Extension to Close Out	This Request is sent to the Grant Specialist and Grants Officer for approval.It is NOT sent to the Program Officer.	No	No				
Change in Principal Investigator	Yes	No*	No				
Change in Institution Name	Yes	No*	No				
Change in Key Person Specified in the Application	Yes	No*	No				
Satisfied Special Award Conditions	Yes	No	No				
Transfer of Funds allotted for training to other categories of expenses	Yes	No	No				
Pre-Award Cost	Yes	No	No				
Equipment Purchase	Yes	No	No				
Foreign Travel	Yes	No	No				
Sole Source Contract							
Absence of more than 3 months or 25% by project director or PI	Yes	No	No				
Inclusion of cost that requires prior approval based on cost principles	Yes	No	No				
No Cost Extension Invocation of Expanded Authorities	This request is sent only to CAMS	No	No				

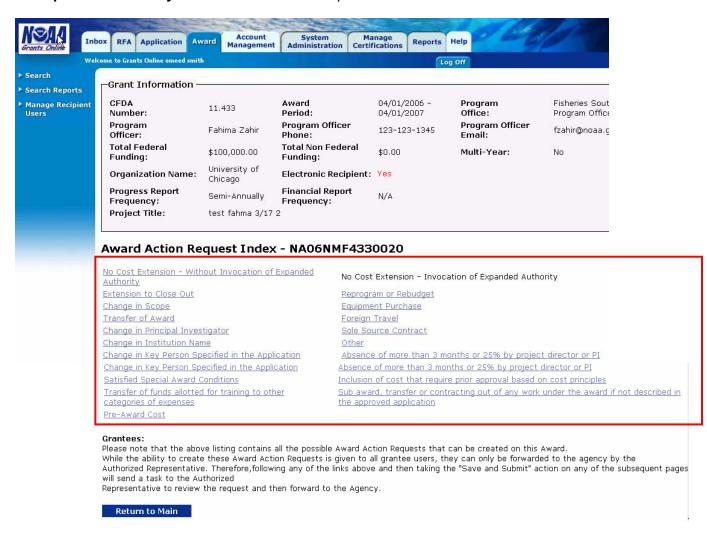
^{* -} After the Grants Officer approves the Award Action Request a task is sent to the Recipient System Administrator to update the change in Grants Online.

- Click on the Award Tab.
- Click Search Award.
- 3. Search for Award screen displays.
- 4. Enter the Award Number you can search the Award number by entering the entire Award number, parts of the Award Number, or you may conduct a blank search by leaving the fields blank to display all of the Awards to which you have access.
- Click Submit.
- 6. From the search results click on the **Create Award Action** link listed in the **Award Action Request** column.

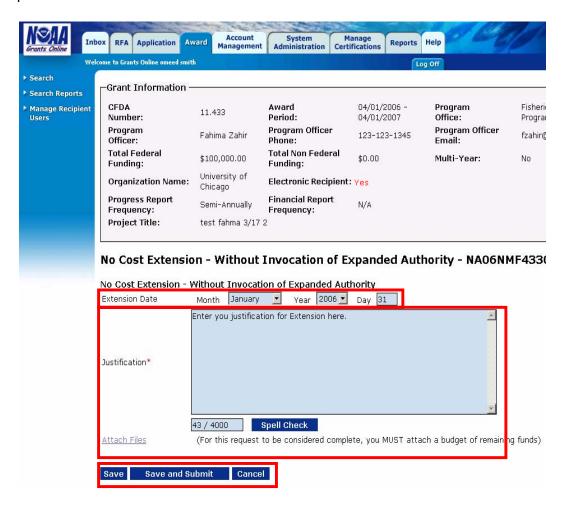


7. Click on the link of the AAR you wish to initiate. Please note that the list displays all the possible AARs that can be created for the Award. While the ability to create these AARs is given to all grantee users, only the Authorized Representative can forward the AAR to the agency. Therefore, when completing the AAR and selecting the "Save and Submit" action on any of the subsequent pages, a task is sent to the Authorized Representative to review the request and then forward to the Agency.

For the purposes of the manual, we will select **No Cost Extension – Without Invocation of Expanded Authority** as the Award Action Request.



- 8. The No Cost Extension Without Invocation of Expanded Authority screen appears.
- 9. Enter in the extension date.
- 10. Provide a justification.
- 11. Click **Save** to capture the changes.
- 12. Click the Attach Files link to upload a budget of remaining funds.
 - a. Enter a short description of the attached file.
 - b. Click **Done** to go back to the Award Action Request main page.
- 13. Once the file is attached, click **Save and Submit**.
- 14. A task is then sent to the Authorized Representative to review, approve, and forward the request to NOAA.

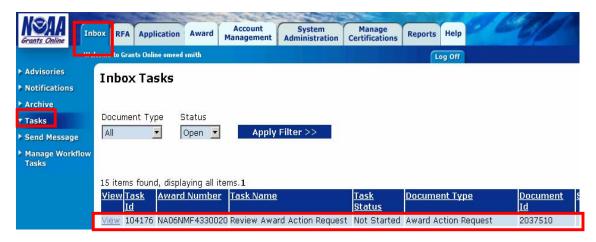




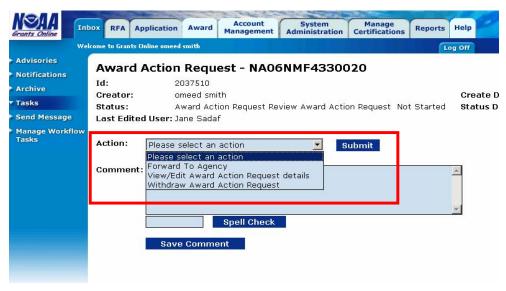
Note: For the No Cost Extension – Without Invocation of Expanded Authority to be considered complete, you must attach a budget of remaining funds.

Recipient Authorized Representative - "Review Award Action Request" Task

- 1. Select the **Inbox** tab.
- Select the Tasks link.
- 3. Select the View link next to the "Review Award Action Request task."



- 4. Click on the action dropdown menu to view the possible actions. For the purposes of this manual we will select the option to **Forward to Agency** and **Submit.**
 - a. Forward to Agency –Select this action to forward the AAR to NOAA.
 - b. **View/Edit Award Action Request Details** Select this action to view the details of the Award Action Request.
 - Withdraw Award Action Request Select this action to allow the Authorized Representative to withdraw the Award Action Request.



For more information on any of the Grants Online functionality detailed in this manual, please contact the Grants Online Help Desk at 301-713-1000 or toll free at 1-877-662-2468.